

# Celebrating 25 years of *ETFRN News*



Over 25 years, *ETFRN News* has evolved from a forest research-focused newsletter to a knowledge-sharing platform for practitioners and policy makers working in tropical forests.

*"Before the internet era, ETFRN News had a very important role in sharing information among forestry researchers, practitioners and policy makers in Europe and around the world. The newsletter was an important element in developing the network."*

Hannah Jaenicke, editor of *ETFRN News* No. 1, June 1992

The European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN) was established in 1991 as a research and knowledge network of European forest and development organizations. It was founded to ensure that European research and knowledge activities contribute effectively to the conservation and sustainable use of forest resources in tropical countries. The first issue of *ETFRN News*, its flagship publication, was published in June 1992, and this edition/issue marks its silver anniversary. In 58 issues over the past 25 years, it has provided a wealth of forest knowledge and information.

*"ETFRN was first and foremost a medium for policy makers, practitioners and researchers to share information, news, views and experiences on emerging topics of interest — and I am truly glad to see that it is still doing so."*

Willemine Brinkman, longest-serving editor (1997–2007)

The form and content evolved over time to meet changing needs. *ETFRN News* has had three distinct formats during its history. The first five years (1992–97) saw the production of 20 issues that shared news and information on events and projects. The second period included 25 theme-based editions in a booklet format that covered topical issues in tropical forestry. A decade ago, it changed from a newsletter format to an opinion-leading volume of informative articles. The current edition is the tenth in this format — another milestone to celebrate in ETFRN's silver anniversary year. This latest edition also introduces interviews for the first time, continuing its evolution.



ETFRN has also benefitted from the broad support and commitment of the European Tropical Forestry Advisory Group (ETFAG), an informal forum of officials of EU Member States and other European governments facilitating exchange and action on strategic global forestry issues. ETFAG has always been an important sounding board for *ETFRN News*, providing guidance on emerging forest policy priorities and trends.

*"ETFRN News has always been a mine of information and contacts. I had an article and information request back in No. 28 (in 1999) that led to an amazing response, and connections I made then are important in my research to this day."*

Nick Pasiecznik, editor of issues 57 and 58